Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A detection system for determining whether an object ~~(21)~~ is present at a predeterminable location, the system comprising:
a sensor tool ~~(35)~~ including an air outlet ~~(75)~~ at a forward surface thereof from which an air flow is in use delivered;
an air catch sensor ~~(135)~~ pneumatically connected to the air outlet ~~(75)~~ of the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ and being operative to detect a change in pressure of the air flow as delivered from the air outlet ~~(75)~~ indicative of the air outlet ~~(75)~~ being moved proximate a surface of an object ~~(21)~~;
a positioning mechanism ~~(9)~~ to which the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ is attached; and
a control unit ~~(139)~~ for controlling the positioning mechanism ~~(9)~~ to advance the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ such that the air outlet ~~(75)~~ of the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ is advanced through at least one detection point to sense for a surface thereat and determine whether an object ~~(21)~~ is present at a predeterminable location.

2. (Currently amended) The detection system of claim 1, wherein the control unit ~~(139)~~ is operative to control the positioning mechanism ~~(9)~~ to advance the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ successively through a plurality of predeterminable detection points to sense for a surface thereat, wherein the sensing of a surface at one of the detection points is indicative of the presence of an object ~~(21)~~ of a respective known kind.

3. (Currently amended) The detection system of claim 2, wherein the presence of an object ~~(21)~~ from a plurality of objects ~~(21)~~ of known different kind can be identified.

4. (Currently amended) The detection system of claim 3, wherein the objects ~~(21)~~ of known different kind include an object ~~(21)~~ of one kind in different state.

5. (Currently amended) The detection system of ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ is advanced along a single axis.

6. (Currently amended) The detection system of ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the object ~~(21)~~ comprises a carrier ~~(21)~~ supporting a plurality of elements ~~(OB)~~ which are to be operated upon in accordance with a predeterminable operating routine.

7.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether an object ~~(21)~~ is present at a predeterminable location, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an air catch sensor unit comprising a sensor tool ~~(35)~~ including an air outlet ~~(75)~~ at a surface thereof, and an air catch sensor ~~(135)~~ pneumatically connected to the air outlet ~~(75)~~ of the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ and being operative to detect a change in pressure of the air flow as delivered from the air outlet ~~(75)~~; and

advancing the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ such that the air outlet ~~(75)~~ thereof is advanced through at least one detection point to sense for a surface thereat and determine whether an object ~~(21)~~ is present at a predeterminable location.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the sensor tool advancing step comprises the step of:

advancing the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ successively through a plurality of predeterminable detection points to sense for a surface thereat, wherein the sensing of a surface at one of the detection points is indicative of the presence of an object ~~(21)~~ of a respective known kind.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the presence of an object ~~(21)~~ from a plurality of objects ~~(21)~~ of known different kind can be identified.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the objects ~~(21)~~ of known different kind include an object ~~(21)~~ of one kind in different state.

15. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein the sensor tool ~~(35)~~ is advanced along a single axis.

16. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein the object ~~(21)~~ comprises a carrier ~~(21)~~ supporting a plurality of elements ~~(OB)~~ which are to be operated upon in accordance with a predeterminable operating routine.

17. (Currently amended) A sensor tool for an air catch sensor ~~(135)~~, the sensor tool comprising a body ~~(59)~~ including a bore ~~(61)~~ which is in use pneumatically connected to an catch sensor ~~(135)~~, and a nozzle unit ~~(69)~~ which comprises a nozzle ~~(71)~~ which is captively, slideably disposed in the bore ~~(61)~~ and extends outwardly of the body ~~(59)~~ and a biasing element ~~(73)~~ for biasing the nozzle ~~(71)~~ outwardly of the body ~~(59)~~, wherein the nozzle ~~(71)~~ includes an air outlet ~~(75)~~ at a forward surface thereof from which an air flow is in use delivered and an air channel ~~(76)~~ which fluidly connects the air outlet ~~(75)~~ to the bore ~~(61)~~.

18.-21. (Canceled)